

Boston, Jan. 1. 1854.

Dear Miss Estlin;

A fortnight since, and just as our Bazaar was commencing, I wrote to your good father (and yourself, in one); and now, in about equal haste, but in the far more desirable position of looking back upon a finished and a successful Bazaar I send you a few lines. Well - then; after ten days of dealing with the Antislavery, & so far as we could with the pro-slavery, public of Boston & the vicinity, the Bazaar closes with receipts exceeding four thousand, one hundred dollars (\$4100.) This is \$50. better than last year, when we thought we did great things, and is the best result for many years. No "Liberty Bell" was published this year, either; and, worse still, we had four or five days of terrible weather to encounter, one of which was a total loss in a pecuniary sense, for the storm was so severe, and the streets of the city so obstructed with snow, that passing & re-passing was a matter of serious difficulty, & was attempted by very few. In 9 days, therefore, the receipts were as great (with very unfavourable weather too) as in 12 days last year. This, we think, is good success. Then we have had more numerous foreign donations than ever before, - ~~the~~<sup>a</sup> Perth, Cork, & 2 London boxes



having come to hand last week, just in season for the last day or two. - One box, sent in the Steamship "Humboldt", which was wrecked near Halifax, has been recovered, but in what condition we know not, it not having been yet received. - A considerable ~~donation~~ <sup>box</sup> of Tracts & Volumes, the donation of W. Armistead, was in a Ship called the "Lady Knight", which sailed from Glasgow for Boston, and which was abandoned at sea, - and is therefore a total loss. - A considerable portion of the contents of the box were for Phil<sup>a</sup>, and another large portion for Rochester.

Leicester, Jan. 3<sup>d</sup>. 1854. - Obligated to suspend writing, above, I resume in Leicester, where I have come to see how my family 'weathered' the most furious snow-storm that has been known here for a long time, & to get a little rest & quiet. - ] Yesterday, from 8 A.M. to 1 P.M. we gathered up the fragments that remained, of the Fair, filling 6 or 7 good sized boxes, one of which is soon to go to Cincinnati, Ohio, and the remainder will supply the local fairs held in this region during the coming year, - one of which is to be held, we expect, in a few weeks at Fitchburg. - The foreign donations were in great beauty & variety; we had there were, perhaps, not so many simple articles of striking size & elaborate workmanship as we have sometimes had, but there was a far larger number, & more greater variety, of articles at once valuable, <sup>beautiful</sup> & useful; And the sales were in accordance therewith. One thousand, One hundred & fifty



dollars were taken the first day - the largest sum, I believe, ever taken in one day at any A.S. Fair here. - But Anne Weston's report, <sup>which will be forthcoming</sup> as soon as the poor child has had time to rest a little, will tell you all about the matter far better than I can. [Mrs. Webb of Dublin has suggested that the Bazaar Gazette be put in the form of a small pamphlet, - as being more likely to be prized & preserved; the cost, I think, will be but a trifle more, & if so it will appear probably in that shape. -

We were all greatly pleased with the Stereoscope pictures; but, as Ade has said, with your father's picture & yours most of all. Now I shall want to find a perfectly trustworthy person to take it back in safety - not yet awhile, for all have not seen it to whom I should like to show it, but in course of a few months. Would you like to have me send it in a parcel, through a bookseller's box, to John Chapman? Crosby & Nichols

send such a box to London every 6 or 8 weeks. We all think your father has no cause to complain of his likeness. <sup>He is unanimously pronounced a handsome old gentleman.</sup>

Wendell Phillips handed me the parcel of letters sent in Mr. Mafie's box. Thank you a thousand times for them all, as well as for the many other letters which, in the original or in copies, you have lately sent to us. [Anne Weston has a large supply, <sup>(wh. you sent to her)</sup> which have given her a great fund of information & amusement. She has offered to let me see them, and I am anticipating the pleasure; but, hitherto, have not had an hour I could command for that purpose. - I do not know how you manage to maintain so large a correspondence, nor how you can do so much copying



for us. } G. Thompson's letter about the Manchester  
meeting was excellent; I do not object to Joseph  
Sturge having the Credit of any good he has done;  
but, all things considered, - his past hostility to our  
organization, his encouragement to nearly every libeller  
of us who has visited England, his countenance to our  
bitter enemies here, and his still continuing coldness  
towards us, (not to speak of the apparent decline of  
his Anti-slavery zeal), - I do think that the compliments  
to him, especially in G. T.'s mouth, were a little too  
broad. Of course, in that <sup>or any other, faithful matter,</sup> region, ~~G. T.~~ was well  
pleased to receive such a testimony; and a moderate &  
discriminating share of praise would have been right &  
proper; but wasn't it rather, as Shakespeare says, laid on with  
a trowel? I am glad of the privilege of using a part  
of his note for the Liberator, - not using his name, as the  
writer, of course. Chefferson manifests <sup>& an amiable</sup> noble spirit;  
zealous for the cause, clear-sighted as to the right, yet  
earnest to bring all anti-slavery souls into harmonious  
fellowship. So far as a true union is possible, let us  
have it by all means. Yet, it strikes me, no special efforts  
to unite people are necessary, beyond making them  
personally acquainted with each other. So far as they are  
one, they will work together; & there had better, I think, not be  
the appearance of a union any farther than it actually exists.  
I would be devoutly thankful if there could be less clashing  
of opinion, & more union of purpose & effort. Still, I have  
great faith that, in all these diversities, there is, so far  
as our one great object is concerned, a steady movement  
forward towards <sup>it,</sup> ~~that~~ and that the good God will use us all  
to accomplish His wise & gracious purposes, and in ways we  
do not now fully understand. - I cannot but hope



that by & by the way may be clear for a union of the Advocate & Watchman. If Mr. Cheffon stands as firm & true to his post as he has done, I think he will make a very worthy editor or co-editor. I have not yet seen a number of the 'Watchman', but ~~from~~<sup>in</sup> the extracts in various papers, which I have seen, there has been nothing to conflict with such a union. I know not who Mr. C.'s backers are, nor how far he can control the 'W.'; but I should think he would be connected with no party, which would abridge his freedom of speech. — Mrs. Massie has written to W. Phillips & Anne Weston, almost with severity, because of the scrib of the Liberator, in allowing, or participating in, ~~a~~ a discussion whether or not every word & line in the Bible is to <sup>be</sup> received as the certain utterance of God himself; — I haven't seen the letters, but understand that to be the drift of them. If that is the right course, the nearer we get to Rome & the Pope the better; and people, who prefer to be associated with those who are outwardly ~~the~~ very reverential towards the Bible, but inwardly despise & in their lives deny all its most sacred precepts, rather than with those who maintain every great Bible truth, yet will not slavishly bow down to the Book, & suffer "the letter" to kill them, had better "gang their ain gate". I do not think Mrs. Massie one of those, ~~from such specimens~~ of her correspondence as I have formerly seen; but she is evidently living in a circle of such, of the most bigotted type, & they easily work upon her excitable nature. Isn't it somewhat so? — I can't forget the wholesome & hearty chastisement she has given to the pro-slavery American "Divines" (~~divines~~); she did it, with a manifest relish, & I feel sure no sophistry can entirely blind her, — The doctrine of the Plenary Inspiration of the Bible, from Genesis on, had better be abandoned by sensible men, who mean to worship a God who "is Love", and "whose tender mercies are over all his works". Long before I had ever



said much publicly about Antislavery - as long ago as  
1837-38 - I preached a discourse which ~~to~~ treated of  
that question, & which wholly subordinated the Jewish to  
the Christian Scriptures, showing the former to be but a  
"Schoolmaster to bring us to Christ" - & that after Christ had  
come, we were "no longer under the schoolmaster", and  
that the Jewish SS. ~~there~~ <sup>had</sup> no authority whatever for Christians,  
however interesting & valuable as history, & helpful in many  
ways to the Christian's faith. But, if we are to receive every  
word of the O. T. as God's own, <sup>to believe</sup> & every deed there attributed to Him  
to be really His, we have got to believe Him the most extraordinary  
combination of Goodness, Greatness, Meanness, & Cruelty, - ~~and~~ such  
a Being as would make Christ's description of him a falsehood.  
I shall take the liberty to believe no such thing, and to plunge  
myself into no such quagmire. - All this however, as  
you say, is entirely off the A. S. platform. We shouldn't  
bring <sup>it</sup> there, if such good people as Mrs. Massie, & such very  
weak ones as I suspect some of her prompters are, did  
not. ~~bring it there~~. Nor do we bring there, as it is; as far as  
human care can guard such a question, the A. S.  
platform has been most scrupulously guarded on this  
point. - There was an interesting discussion, at the  
Philadelphia Decade Meeting, as to the proper limita-  
tion of topics on the platform of the Am<sup>er</sup>. A. S. Society. It  
will be reported in the pamphlet, - when we get it; &  
we intend sending a good supply to England. Had they better  
be sent separately, or in one large parcel to Webb, thence  
to be distributed? If the former, we shall want a great  
many more names than we now know. - There is delay  
in getting the pamphlet along; the printers are waiting  
for Phillips to revise, &c. - for McKim, & for others; -



and so the work drags. - W. P. has undertaken a great deal of lecturing this winter, - before Literary Associations, &c. &c. in addition to his C. S. labours, - much more than he ought, & he has already broken down under it temporarily. He has been obliged to remain still & idle for about 10 days, but has now gone into the State of New York.

Have you heard that one of our veterans - one of our real old war-horses - is going to England? Even Parker Pillsbury. Such is the fact. He sails from Boston tomorrow, & I suppose will be the bearer of this letter, at least to L'pool.

He had, the last summer & autumn, a very laborious campaign in Ohio & Indiana - was not well, when he went out there - much worse, when he came back; - tendency of blood to the head, pressure on the brain, severe pain in the side at times, &c. and he resolved to lie by & rest all winter, or lecture no more than once a week. - On reaching home, a friend (himself in poor health) proposed to Pillsbury a voyage to Europe in company, offering to pay the passage-money out & back, & perhaps <sup>do more for</sup> give him. P. joyfully closed with this very favourable offer - it was just what ~~he~~ wanted, and was truly a god-send to him; and all arrangements were made. "Many a slip," however; & the gentleman, who proposed the voyage & tour, has been obliged to abandon it, yet promises some pecuniary help. Meanwhile some friends of P.'s, in & about Boston chiefly, had made up a purse of a few hundred dollars, to enable him to go, & to take what he has never had in his life, some months' travel & recreation. In this state of things, P. was loth to abandon a trip on which his mind had become so fixed; so he goes alone. - Mr. Hawley (now in Paris) is an excellent friend of his, and will liberally aid him. Besides him, P. knows not (I believe)



MS. B. 1. 6 v. 4, p. 67  
a soul on your side the Atlantic, save as he knows the  
old storm-proof Abolitionists by their words & works. - His  
own plan was to go at once to Paris - join Mr. Hovey - go  
with him, or alone, to the S. of Europe & spend the remainder  
of the winter; then, if recruited, return, & devote some months  
to such A.S. labor in Eng<sup>d</sup>, Scotland, & Ire<sup>d</sup>, as he might be equal  
to. - But I believe he has been over-persuaded to abandon  
this plan, or materially change it, & will remain for a time in  
G. Britain. For this I am sorry, & so I have written to him; for  
consider him not well enough to lecture or to talk constantly;  
and I know he thinks so himself; but on account of this  
Douglass difficulty (of which I shall have time to-day to say  
a word), some of our friends - Garrison & others - think that P.P.  
may do much, by visiting some of our friends, to give them  
a clear & correct understanding of the whole business. I have  
urged Pillsbury to seek out your father, yourself, & R.D.W.  
among the very first he sees, & have a very full & frank  
discussion of all Anti-Slavery matters. This I hope he will do  
at once, - provided he decides to stop awhile in G. B. - or  
whenever he returns there. - The more you see P.P., the  
better, I am confident, you will like him; possibly not, at first,  
as a public speaker; though few among us, here, have  
warmer personal friends & stronger admirers than he has. But  
his devotion to the A.S. Cause has been, & is, most noble &  
unchanging; he understands it, & the tactics of its enemies  
thoroughly; he is as true as steel; perfectly reliable; calm  
& undaunted in trying moments; never over-elated & excited  
in successful ones. - You know that none of our speakers  
have been more criticized, <sup>than he</sup> ~~more~~. I can add that none  
have been more slandered. This style of speaking is often  
calculated to make those, who are on the side of wrong,  
very angry. It is usually, however, because he paints



their likenesses so faithfully; and it is an anger which, having thoroughly aroused them, has been blessed to their A.S. conversions in the case of such as had anything in them capable of re-moulding, & turning to good service in the cause of humanity. I feel that he needs some good counsel from Webb & yourself, (together) before beginning his <sup>public</sup> labours in a sphere so new to him as that of the United Kingdom; and I know ~~that~~ no person who will receive such counsel, when given in a friendly spirit, from a true to the cause, & from such honoured sources, as those I have referred to, in a more grateful and ~~grateful~~ willing spirit. But I can write no more. - [Soon

I hope to hear that you have derived great benefit from your 'Water Cure', - which I suppose by this time you have begun upon; - would that it might prove a Cure.]- I meant to have given Pillsbury a regular letter of introduction to your father & yourself; but I shan't have time & this must suffice for answer in its stead for the present.

I have had an interesting letter from Rev. J. A. Hemthal which I mean soon to answer. -

I am obliged to close, without even looking over what I have said.

Excuse my haste, & blunders - Give my best respects & love to your father, & believe me,

Most truly, Your friend

Scrm May Jr



